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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/630,786	07/31/2003	Noriaki Kitahara	241142US2S	3731
22850	7590	02/15/2006	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			PIERRE LOUIS, ANDRE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2123	

DATE MAILED: 02/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/630,786

Applicant(s)

KITAHARA, NORIAKI

Examiner

Andre Pierre-Louis

Art Unit

2123

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 July 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 07/31/2003.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.0 Claims 1-7 have been presented for examination.

Drawings

2.0 The drawings are objected to because figure 3 labeled "FLG.3" need to be labeled as to say "FIG.3". Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

3.0 Claim 4 is objected to because of the following informalities: line 2 of the claim contains words or phrase that seems unclear to the examiner, more specifically the

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words or phrase "according to any one of claim 1". The examiner interprets the unclear words or phrase to be "according to claim 1" as shown in claim 2. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4.0 Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wasynczuk et al. (USPG_PUB No. 2002/0052725).

4.1 In considering the independent claim 1, Wasynczuk et al. teaches the functional equivalence of a distributed simulation system comprising a plurality of computers each including a display unit, the computers being connected to one another via a network and loaded with event-driven application programs, respectively, and the programs each executing simulation by use of a common facility assuring an information transfer between a plurality of objects existing in a distributed environment (*fig.1-6, pg.2-4 (0019-0043)*), the distributed simulation system comprising: an interface unit configured to interface with respect to a user by receiving an operation corresponding to the user's will (*fig.2-3, pg.1 (0008), pg.2-4 (0019-0043)*; *see also*

abstract); and a notifying unit configured to notify the application programs of the operation received via the interface unit as an event (*fig. 7A-B, pg. 5-7 (0050-0073)*).

4.2 As per claim 2, Wasynczuk et al. teaches the display control unit configured to display on the display unit a symbol acting as an interface for receiving an operation corresponding to the user's will, wherein the interface unit accepts the user's operation making use of the symbol displayed on the display unit (*fig. 1-6, pg. 5-7 (0050-0073)*).

4.3 With regards to claim 3, Wasynczuk et al. teaches that the display control unit reflects the result of the notifying of the event to the application programs in the contents displayed on the display units of said plurality of computers (*fig. 7A-B, pg. 5-7 (0050-0073)*).

4.4 Regarding claim 4, Wasynczuk et al. teaches that the simulation is realized under RTI (Run-time Infrastructure) for executing each service determined in HLA (High Level Architecture) interface specifications (*fig. 1-6, pg. 2-7 (0019-0073)*).

4.5 As per claim 5, Wasynczuk et al. teaches that the simulation is realized as a federation which includes, as federates, a plurality of nodes and a plurality of links connecting these nodes to form a network (*fig. 1-6, pg. 2-7 (0019-0073)*).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5.0 Claims 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wasynczuk et al., as applied to claims 1-5 above, in view of Reed et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,793,593).

5.1 Regarding claim 6, Wasynczuk et al. teaches most of the instant invention; however, he does not teaches that said plurality of nodes include power stations generating electric power and receivers who receive the electric power, said plurality of links are power lines for supplying the electric power from the power station to the receiver, and the federation is a simulation which simulates a route for supplying electric power from the power stations to the receivers via the power line. *Reed et al.* substantially teaches said plurality of nodes include power stations generating electric power and receivers who receive the electric power, said plurality of links are power lines for supplying the electric power from the power station to the receiver, and the federation is a simulation which simulates a route for supplying electric power from the power stations to the receivers via the power line (*fig. 1-2, col. 1 line 9-col. 4 line 62; also*

see col.5 line 31-col.10 line 42). It would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to combine the teaching of Wasynczuk et al. with Reed et al. for the purpose of representing the distributed simulation system as a power distribution network. Reed et al. further teaches the advantages of minimizing magnetic fields, and the ease of detecting high-z faults (col.3 lines 1-11).

5.2 As per claim 7, the combined teachings of Wasynczuk et al. and Reed et al. substantially teach the elements constituting the power stations as the federates (see *Reed et al. fig.1-2, col.5 line 9-col.10 line 62; also see Wasynczuk et al. fig.1-6, pg.2-7 (0019-0073)*).

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

6.1 Sekiguchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,285,917) teaches an electric power system protection and control system and distributed control system.

6.2 Tveit et al. (USPG_PUB No. 2002/0087220) teaches a system and method to provide maintenance for an electrical power generation, transmission and distribution system.

6.3 Arington et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,918,771) teaches a distributive processing simulation method and system for training healthcare teams.

6.4 Bonet (USPG_PUB No. 2004/0158417) teaches a system and method for monitoring and managing electrical power transmission and distribution networks.

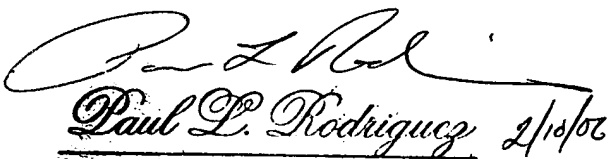
7.0 Claims 1-7 are rejected and this action is non-final. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andre Pierre-Louis whose telephone number is 571-272-8636. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:00AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo P. Picard can be reached on 571-272-3749. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

February 6, 2006

APL


Paul L. Rodriguez 2/6/06
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2125